

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## WESTERN FREEWAY UPGRADE BETWEEN MELTON AND CAROLINE SPRINGS

MARCH 2024



We're undertaking planning and development work on behalf of the Victorian and Australian governments to investigate potential options to upgrade the Western Freeway.

Melbourne's western region is one of the fastest growing in Australia and is experiencing significant congestion.

The Western Freeway is a critical road link and every single day approximately 86,000 vehicles travel the stretch between Melton and Caroline Springs, with this figure expected to rise to approximately 113,000 by 2031.

### Status

We're planning for a potential upgrade of the Western Freeway between Melton and Caroline Springs to improve safety, freeway access and road capacity to help accommodate growing demand.

Options being explored to upgrade the Western Freeway between Harkness Road and Christies Road include:

- additional road lanes
- new interchanges and overpasses
- upgrades to existing interchanges
- upgrades to walking and cycling paths
- traffic signal and street lighting improvements
- public transport priority facilities.

### Planning and development

Our planning work includes traffic modelling, engineering designs, constructability assessments, economic modelling, community engagement and environmental investigations.

This will give us a complete picture of the area, allow us to understand environmental and social impacts, develop project options, and confirm scope and costs of the different options.

Planning will also take into consideration the Precinct Structure Plans developed for the area as well as residential estate developments currently in planning or construction in the local area that will have an impact on the demand for the freeway.



**Sign up for updates**  
Subscribe for email and SMS updates  
at [bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads-subscribe](https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads-subscribe)





## Technical investigations

To help inform our planning, roadside technical investigations will occur. At times, we may need to implement traffic control measures, including temporary lane closures, stop/slow traffic and set speeds.

We'll keep traffic disruption to a minimum and avoid busy periods.

## Business case

A business case is currently being developed and our planning work is expected to be complete in late 2024.

The business case will provide a detailed examination of the potential upgrade to help inform government decision-making.

## Benefits



Improve capacity to accommodate growing demand



Improve freeway access



Improve road safety



Reduce traffic congestion



Improve travel times



Create more reliable journeys for road users



Improve cycling and walking connections

## Project timeline



### October 2022

The Australian Government committed \$10m in funding in the 2022/23 Federal Budget to complete a business case



### November 2022

The Victorian Government committed \$10m in funding in the 2022/23 Federal Budget to complete a business case



### Early 2023 to 2024

Business case planning and development



### June 2023

Technical investigations and environmental surveys commenced



### 11 November to 3 December 2023

Community and business engagement

[bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads](https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/roads)



For languages other than English please call 9209 0147

1800 105 105 (call anytime)

[contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



Please contact us if you would like this information in an accessible format. If you need assistance due to a hearing or speech impairment, visit [relayservice.gov.au](https://relayservice.gov.au)